BUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1896.

Sebsertetions by Mail Post-Paid. Pestage to foreign countries added.
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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for sublication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Local News.—The City and Suburban News Bureat of the United Plane and New York Associated Prins is at 31 to 25 ann atreet. All information and documents for public use instantly dissemi-nated to the press of the whole country.

The Hawaiian Widow.

There is something very moving in the description which our Washington despatches give of the consternation caused in the White House by the news that Queen Lil is en her way to the national capital. To the President it seemed worse even than having Congress on his hands; and the blow almost prostrated THURBER.

It is worth noting that this visit of Mrs. DOMESTS to her friend and ally has been made at almost the first practicable moment While she was still under the sentence of the Hawaiian court she was watched; but with the recent complete restoration of her civil rights she is free to go and come. The question arises, therefore, whether President Dolls and his Cabinet had an inkling of the use to which Queen LIL would put her freedom, and whether it was revenge upon Mr. CLEVELAND rather than clemency for her that prompted the pardon.

But, if so, their mischlevous purpose will be foiled if the President resorts to flight, and the visit of the Queen of Sheba to SCLEMON will not be paralleled.

Weyler's Second Return.

When Gen. WETLER started for Pinar del Rie a short time ago, it was rumored that he might get back to Havana again about Christmas; but he has been mable to stay away so long. He has already finished another great campaign. and has returned to the capital to be growned with its laurels. At this rate he might get in a third series of supposed victories before his holiday recess, and go into history as the man who has broken all records in the number of campaigns fought within the limits of a single season.

Outside of opera bouffe, was there ever anything quite like the spectacle of last Friday evening in Havana, when this spurious conqueror rode into the city with an escort of two squadrons of cavalry. cheered all the way from the suburbs to the palace, bands playing, rockets whizzing, and girls here and there strewing flowers in

If one should make a guess at the occasion of this absurd performance, it might be that the doughty Captain-General, having received, perhaps while in Piner del Rio, the tidings of the death of that soldier of genius, ANTONIO MACEO, hurried back at once to the capital to reap the benefits of the account. Although the spot where the brave Cuban patriot was said to have fallen is in Havana province, far away from WEYLER's own whereabouts, he rushed back and announced the magnificent success of his plans.

Madrid and Havana must be in sore stress when such bombast comforts them.

The New Attempt to Coerce the Sultan.

There seems to be no doubt that Russia, France, and England have combined to securs the immediate enforcement of reforms man Empire, and that th Government intends to remain perfectly neutral in the matter. In view of Germany's attitude, Italy will not desire, and Austria-Hungary will scarcely venture, to encourage the Sultan to resistance by the promise of support. The existence of the agreement, however, between the three powers first named implies either a decided change in the Czar's programme, or else a distinct departure from England's traditional policy.

The plan which Prince LOBANOF conceived, and to which, up to the time of his death, the Russian Government adhered unswervingly, was to do nothing and to suffer none of the great powers to do anything until the Sultan's iniquities should pass the bounds of toleration and the necessity of ejecting the Turk from Europe should be universally recognized. His aim was, not the rehabilitation of the Ottoman State, but the swift disintegration of it, to be followed by the absorption of most of it in the Russian empire. The last thing he wished to see was of the rope, is arranged to work at a reinvigorated Turkey, deriving a fresh vitality from liberal institutions and salutary reforms, and thus unshakably controlling the Dardanelles and the Bosporus, and continuing to block the egress of Russian warships from the Black Sea. His belief was that, if rope enough were given to the Sultan, that half-crazy sovereign would hang himself, or, in other words, would offer to become the ward of Russia, which, in turn, would assume the rights and duties of a guardian. LOBANOF expected to revive in form or substance the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi, concluded some sixty years ago, whereby the Sultan was to have Russia's protection against other foreign powers, on condition of conceding to the Czar the control of Turkey's military and naval resources, and the right of safeguarding the interests of the Christian subjects of the Ottoman Empire. Had that treaty been carried out, the Sultan would have sunk into precisely the same condition of vassalage which for a time was occupied by the Khan of the Crimes, and which is at present held by the Ameer of Bokhara.

Now, it is manifest that the plan framed by LOBANOF must have been, to a certain extent, abandoned, for a condition of any agreement to which England would be a party would be the maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, provided, of course, the Sultan will permit the needful reforms to be carried out. But the honest enforcement of such reforms will, in the judgment of all observers, tend to give Turkey a new lease of life, and thus the Russian dream of gaining Constantinople would be further from fulfilment than ever. We may be certain, therefore, that Russia will cling inflexibly to at least one feature of the LOBANOF scheme, and that some compensation she is to have for her assent to the reinvigoration of an empire virtually moribund. The compensation will undoubtedly take the form of England's acquiescence in the opening of the Dardanelles and the Bosporus to

the warships of all nations, and thus Russia will acquire for her Black Sea fleat, what she has long sought in vain, a free outlet to the Mediterranean. That is the smallest quid pro quo that Russia can accept for cooperation with England, which repeatedly during the present century has thwarted her reasonable aspirations for some better means of access to the ocean than is afforded by the Baltic and the White

We may fairly assume then that Lord SALISBURY, who went with Lord BEACONS-FIELD to Berlin for the express purpose of destroying the centy of San Stefano, and of pushing Russia back once more behind the Danube, has renounced a fundamental tenet of England's foreign policy. The tenet was that the warships created by Russia in the ports of the Black Sea must be cooped up in that basin and must never, under any circumstances, be allowed to pass the Dardanelles. If this primary principle, to assert which the Crimean war was fought, is now to be dis-

avowed, it is because the attempt to deprive a great empire of its natural outlet no longer commends itself even to the English sense of decency, and because, more over, so long as Egypt remains in England's grasp, the presence of a Russian war fleet in the Mediterranean need excite but little apprehension.

It is generally believed and intrinsically probable that, in consideration of England's willingness to throw open the Dardanelles and the Bosporus, Russia has agreed that the question of England's right to occupy Egypt shall not be raised. Deeply as the French resent the occupation, they can be prevailed upon by the Czar to acquiesce in t, for at present the will of the Russian autocrat seems to be as irresistible in Paris as in St. Petersburg.

Bring on Your Cabinet Officers.

A predestined enterprise, sound as a dolar when compared with some other enterprises, has been precipitated by the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the Wisconsin city of Milwaukee. These commercial gentlemen have resolved to merce, with the chief a member of the Cabinet whose task it shall be to collect and redistribute commercial information and develop with all possible energy and paternal authority our commercial capabilities at home and abroad. Why shouldn't Commerce have a Cabinet

Minister, with salary, department, clerks, and power? The special industry of Agriculture has its own representative in politics, with statisticians, printing presses, and seed bins sufficient to fill the farmer's heart with pride at his place in the public eye, and at the respect paid to him every time the Cabinet roll call names the Secretary of Agriculture. Agriculture represents so many citizen practitioners and so many millions of money. Commerce also has its followers, and handles also a certain number of millions of money. Who can say that Commerce and dozens of other divisions of industry cannot justly claim honors equal to Agriculture's? Commerce, Mining, Mechanics, Railroading, Art, and the Sciences are distinct professions, as deserving as Agriculture of seats in the Cabinet with public bureaus of investigation and publication Labor or trades unions have long wanted a seat in the Cabinet. A Secretary of Religion wouldn't contradict the religion clause in the Constitution. From the overflowing heart of free sentiment comes the cry for a Secretary of the Home, a Minister of Domesticity, a boss Federal student of the lore of the nursery and of all things parental, or perhaps even romantic. After every title in a business directory gets recognition, there will be more to be recognized.

The Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Milwaukee are but stepping further along the smooth, broad path of governmental expansion and Federal classification of national interests.

High Speed Elevators.

An extract from the Engineering Record, published elsewhere in this morning's SUN. mentions an interesting new development in the high-building question, in connection with the elevator. As buildings have grown higher and have taken in more tenants, the use of the elevator has increased until the space required for it has encroached seriously upon the area customarily assigned to offices. Upon small lots the expansion of the elevator shaft has threatened to curtail the height of the building, owing to the need of preserving the proper proportion of office room to the investment. This obstacle has led to great increase in the speed of elevators, until the new dangers accompanying the

change warn builders to pause. The recent accident to the elevator in the American Tract Society building is instructive. The elevators there are set to run at 700 feet a minute, and the safety device, designed to meet a breaking 960 feet a minute. The elevator, becoming unmanageable, went down at its regular speed of 700 feet a minute, which, while it was enough to break the bones of the passengers, was not sufficient to release the safety catch and bring the car to a stop. This also explains why some of the passengers were not killed. The Engineering Record's recommendation of a legal limitation to elevator speed of not more than 400 feet a minute, is a not unnatural feature of the high-building develop-

The Great Canal.

ment up to date.

It may surprise some who feel an interest in the progress of the Nicaragua canal to learn that no new work has been done on that structure for more than three years.

Such, however, is the fact, as it appears in a statement made to the Interior Department by the Maritime Canal Company. The latter entered into a contract with another company for the construction of the great waterway, but financial troubles occurred in August, 1893, and since then an assignment of the contract has been made to the Nicaragua Company, a corporation chartered by the State of Vermont. But no attempt has been made to continue the work.

A great mistake, in our opinion, was made at the last session of Congress touch ing the canal, and the practical question now is whether that mistake shall be repeated this winter.

Two years ago, when the project of undertaking the canal as a national enterprise was under discussion, some earnest proests were made against it on the ground that it was impracticable. It was, therefore, wisely agreed by its friends and its opponents that a commission of skilled engineers should be appointed to go to Nicaragua to examine the subject and to report upon it. This was done, the result being the all-important one of dispelling doubts as to the practicability of a tropical canal, so far as the nature of the ground and the destructive

torrent-like rains were concerned. However, it was thought by the engineers that the canal would cost much more than had been supposed, and it was pointed out particularly that there were some grave doubts as to certain key points of the plan proposed, notably the great Ochoa dam. The engineer commission did not say that these features of the existing scheme were fatally de fective. It simply informed Congress, as not assume this great work, involving per haps \$130,000,000 or \$140,000,000, without having its subject matter examined

more carefully than it had had time to do. What was the natural and proper step thereupon to be taken? Obviously that of sending down as soon as possible a second commission, with a liberal force of appliances, to make the required investigations and tests. But, instead of this, friends of the enterprise, whose eagerness outran their judgment, attacked this report of the experts whom Congress had sent out for the very purpose of instructing it as to what they had found. It seems to have been considered really possible to break them down, and so commit the country to the enterprise without the investigation they had found to be necessary.

Of course, that plan came to grief. The session passed without action, except for the tardy report of a bill from the House Committee, to authorize building the canal with a provision for the appointment of a commission of three engineers to examine the plans and estimates of the existing company, and appropriating \$200,000 for their expenses. But the net result was the loss of a year in the preliminary examination proposed.

Now the question is whether another year shall be as needlessly lost in an enterprise which involves such vast possibilities for our country, and which appeals so strongly to American sympathies. Had the advice of the engineers been taken, and another commission sent down last spring, occupying two full seasons in investigation, as proposed, the whole work would have been done by the beginning of the first regular session of Congress under the new Administration. But even petition Congress for a Department of Com- at the present short session there is time at least for passing a brief bill, simply appropriating \$200,000 or any other needed sum for a new engineer commission to do the required work of examination. Even the opponents of the canal project ought not to object to that most proper measure.

The Botanic Garden.

Before the directors of the Botanic Garden rote upon their plan for the proposed buildings, it would be well if drawings, describing at least their nature and their location in relation to the land where they are to be. were put in a shape that would permit them to be understood and considered by the public. That will conform to the rule for every great transformation proposed in a public park. We have been compelled before this to express regret that the excellent gentlemen forming the directory of the Botanic Garden Society, who with very generous spirit subscribed a considerable sum of money for the project, have dealt with the task intrusted to them in connection with the city as though they alone owned everything concerned.

Unfortunately no expert vet selected to advise officially upon the problems to be determined gives, by his reputation and achievements, the guarantee of that competency which should be a preliminary requisite for every expert employed on important public works. So far the directors of the Botanie Garden have called to their aid a botanist, a gardener, an architect, an engineer, and a maker of glass houses. Neither the landscape architect, or park-maker and representative of the public's interest in the land. nor the man who knows the secret of the combination of botany and gardening which makes the botanic garden, has yet figured in their deliberations.

In the project as it has been developed up glass-house maker seem to have dominated wholly. The first step, even before the making of an adequate study of the ground and garden, has been toward putting up a great building and greenhouse, where the botanist may store his collections. It has not yet penetrated sufficiently the minds of the directors, able and excellent as they are individually, that there is much in a plan. and that public business cannot be run on lines permissible in private business.

The Chances of Life of Old Men.

Dr. ADOLPH BLOCH read a paper the other day before the Paris Society of Anthropology, in which he ridiculed the theory that old age is a disease, contending that it is no more a disease than childhood. With precautions an old man is no more exposed to maladies than is a younger man, provided he has not taxed his strength too heavily.

It is difficult to say at what period of life old age arrives. There are many causes that bring on precoclous senility. Sometimes one man is very old at 30, and another presents all the attributes of a second youth at 60. It is more logical to describe old age as that period in life during which a man dies naturally, if he does not succumb to a malady or an accident. Very few old men, as a matter of fact, die of disease, however strange this may appear. A great many of them drop off from simple exhaustion, without leaving the least trace of any malady. No doubt, there are maladies that attack old men, such, for instance, as congestion of the brain, inflammation of the lungs, and arterial atheroma, that is to say, a degree of thickness, more marked in the tunics of the arteries, which become as solid and brittle as pipestems. Many deaths of old people are attributed to these causes, but we must not forget that they do not suffice to explain all. BICHAT came nearer the truth when he said that we die in detail, and continue to die until the day

when we ouit this earthly scene altogether. Dr. BLOCH shares the ideas of BICHAT, and he cites statistics to prove that they are not wrong. He secured from M. JACQUES BERTILLON the Parisian record of the deaths from senility of both men and women during a period of eleven years, taking the age of 60 as the average. From these figures it appears that mortality among old people is greatest between the ages of 80 and 85, while it diminishes suddenly from the 90th year. That is to say, malady takes a lighter hold upon an old person who has reached that age and passed the critical period named above. In other words, an old person who reaches 90 without accident has a good chance of becoming a centenarian and of dying of old age only The deaths of old people in whom no disease can be discovered are always put down in statistics under the name of senile debility, senile exhaustion, senile cachexy, and senility. Now, the natural death through senility is not known, according

to Dr. Bloch. It has sometimes been

noticed among old people in the hospital of

Sainte-Perine, but the anatomical exami-

nation in most cases revealed no defect, and it was natural to come to the conclusion

that death was due to progressive weakness. Mortality among the old is variable, according to the periods of the year. It is highest during the winter months, without at all being assisted by pneumonia. It is also variable according to localities, as can be proved by consulting the statistics of the departments of France. There are some its duty required, that the country should regions where men live longer than they do in others. For instance, Yonne and Gironde are particularly favored in this matter. How this is nobody can tell, but it is a fact duly observed.

The Zoological Garden.

The question respecting the application of the Zoölogical Society for some park land whereon to keep a collection of animals is

easily settled. There should be a Zoölogical Garden in New York city. It should be in a park. The Botanical Garden, which will be a place of great interest, doubtless, indicates that it would be well to put the Zoölogical Garden in a convenient neighborhood, or in Bronx Park, the spot desired by the soclety, which offers to pay for its construction.

The great success of the new Aquarium calls for energy in preparing quarters for a first-rate collection of wild animals.

Now it is going to die. We mean that ugly and crooked little scrub oak that was planted in the Central Park in 1860 by the Prince of Wales. ALBERT EDWARD is bad sort of gentleman, but it is a pity that he can't plant a trustworthy tree. Patriots here abouts will say that no plant touched by royal hands can ever flourish in the land of the free and on the other hand the Englishmen may say that a British oak must naturally be ashamed

to grow to any size in republican soil. Perhaps the best thing that the Park author ities can do with it is to cut it down, saw it into chunks, and have them turned into fac-similer of the shoes that the Prince wors when he planted it. They would sell for at least 50 cents a pair, and the admirers of Mr. BAVARD would have a chance to subscribe for a good pair to be sent to him in London.

The Raines Law and Clubs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: From ertain questions asked by Senator Raines in the proceedings of the investigating committee relative to the Liquor Tax law, it would seem that the Senator believes all clubs which dispense liquors among their members should pay a tay and the only possible reason for their not doing it is that a club, to a certain extent, is a home for its members. Are there not other cogent reasons why the law should not be extended to include genuine clubs? The principal reason for imposing a license fee

or tax upon the trafficking in liquors is that revenne may be raised to reimburse the taxpayer for money expended in the support of the poor and expenses incurred in the suppression of crime, it being alleged that the sale of liquor promotes pauperism and crime. Admitting for argumentative purposes these facts, the persona who are members of legitimate clubs do not be-long to the class which commit crime, nor are they indigent. The members of a club are men who can afford the privileges and luxuries it oflong to the class which commit crime, nor are they indigent. The members of a club are men who can afford the privileges and inxuries it offers, and their consumption of liquor therein is in no way detrimental to the taxpayer. Again, the club is organized principally for social purposes, and in the language of the Court of Appeals, "the furnishing of liquors to its members is merely incidental." The public are not invited, but on the contrary are excluded from the club house. The business of trafficking in liquors is not engaged in, no profit is sought, but the distribution of liquors among the members is for their comfort and entertainment, the same as other supplies are furnished. Members of a club may wish to indulge in the use of liquors and refreshments in a quiet and social way, which cannot be secured at a public bar. It would seem that these reasons are far more salient than the one suggested by Senator Kaines, viz., that club are the homes of its members, and if this theory is dispensed with, the Senator evidently believes clubs should pay the tax.

Mr. Bliss, in his recent letter to The Sunsays: "An amendment which would prevent the abuse of the "fake club" is by no means sumple:" but he suggests one extending the application of the law to all incorporated clubs which were not in existence when the Raines law took effect. The word "not" was evidently inadvertently omitted in Mr. Bliss's letter. Such an amendment would be no more than just to clubs which had been organized before the Liquor Tax law took effect. Previous to this law there was no motive in organizing a club but for legitimate purposes, and to competitude in a meandment which will exempt legitimate clubs from the operation of the law and prevent "fake clubs" from taking advantage of the exemption. It has occurred to the writer that an amendment of the law so of the exemption. It has occurred to the writer that an amendment of the laws of the state for social under the laws of this state for social under the laws of this state for social u

could be made which would provide that the provisions of the Liquor Tax law should not be deemed to apply to corporations organized under the laws of this State for social purposes previous to March 23, 1896, which was the date when the Liquor Tax law took effect, nor to corporations hereafter organized under the laws of this State for such purposes. At the same time amend the Membership Corporation law (chapter 559 of the Laws of 1895), and provide that a lustice of the Supreme Court shall not give his approval to a certificate of meorporation until he has ascertained by proof, to his satisfaction, that the proposed corporation is organized for lawful purposes. Such an amendment would protect clubs incorporated previous to the Hames law, which, as already stated, were only organized for leaving the proposed for lawful purposes, as there was no motive to organize "take clubs." It would protect clubs incorporated for lawful purposes and in good faith, after the amendment, and would sflord no protection to clubs organized since the passage of the Haines law. If any such have been honestly organized they can reflection to the short of the Membership Corporation law all clubs are subject to

Under section 16 of Article 1 of the Membership Corporation law all clubs are subject to the visitation and inspection at any time of a Justice of the Supreme Courtor any person appointed by the court for that purpose. It would, therefore, hardly seem possible that a "fake club" could be organized, and if organized could exist but a very short time.

If an amendment to the Liquor Tax law is passed compelling all the clubs to pay a tax, the inevitable result will be to cause them to disband, no matter when they were incorporated or how honest their purpose. Especially would this be the result in small cities and villages.

Owego, Dec. 11.

Spain and the Beath of Masse. To the Entrop of The Sus-Sir: Permit me to offe

an observation and to make a comparison. The Span-ish manifestations in regard to the death of the brave Maceo seem to me both shocking and prema llow well they depict for us the manners of a

There is an analogy between the death of the herelo Macco, if the reports are true, and that of Gen. Mar-ceau in Austria. Each fell in an ambuscade. But what a contrast—how immense was the difference between the two manifestations!

On the one side we find respect and regret for the dean, the enemy even disputing with his compatriots the honor of burying in a worthy manner a giorious On the other side we find the feroclous jo he instinct of the savage dancing on the dead of an enemy who fell, like Marceau, on the field nor. PEDRON.

On the Indecent Joy of the Spaniards Over the Brath of Macco. Spit on the dead! If dead indeed he be. Who fought so well to make his country free. Spit on the dead! A noble victory You have in Macco's death; but he may live again You valiant, generous Spanish gentlemen: You courteous foes, so brave against the dead,

Spit on the dead! if he indeed be dead; From whom your broken legions turned and fled, Whose very name had chilled your souls with dread. March through the streets and yell the ribald soug. Maceo is dead! But will he stay dead long? No matter! Sure, it cannot be a lie;

At last and least, the fellow's had the decency to die

Howland exult, if dust is strewn upon the patriot's

Spit on the dead! if that strong arm and brain No more shall beat and baffle tyrant Spain, Shall be no more the wolf-eyed Weyler's bane. Scream, dauntiess dons, likewise the rabble rouse Maceo is dead; of that there's little doubt. Santiago and close Spain!" Come! Throw your hats Long live Death, ch ! Victories like this are rare.

Spit on the dead! Go, dance with frolic feet course a hero's heart has ceased to beat; You ruman fools: Freedom will not retreat Who dies or lives, know she can never die The stanch chief falls, but somewhere now is he
Who shall end in glory the holy war, and Cubs-shall HOW FALSTAFF DIED.

Mr. Locks Richardson's Clearing Up of t

Shakespearens Mystery. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: After nearly 300 years since Shakespeare's death it is not usual for new interpretations of his plays to be found. There is a practically standard text, that of Messre. Clark and Wright, and no been made since the late John Orchard Halliwell discovered the "Perkins folio," with its now discredited alterations in many of the plays. New light is thrown constantly on meanings hitherto obscure, and often by persons not professedly Shakespearean students; that is, by actors who thus bear out Charles Lamb's saying that the way to understand Shakespeare's plays is to see them acted. "A little more than kin and less than kind,"

says Hamlet, and for scores of years Hamlets have said the words, pronouncing "kind" to rhyme with " blind," and making the sentence practically senseless. Comes a second-rate melodramatic actor, and gives to "kind" a pro nunciation which makes it rhyme with "sinned," explaining that he learned that an old Midland counties word for "child" was "kind," with that pronunciation. Presto! we have a Shakespearean pun, and the meaningless sentence assumes a meaning. Hamlet to the King is "a litte more than kin and less than child," which he was in reality.

One of the great Shakespearean gruzes has been the last words of Sir John Falstaff, as reported by Dame Quickly in "King Henry V. Act II., scene 3. Says the Dame (we follow the Globe text of Clark and Wright):

A' parted even just between twelve and one eve at the turning of the tide; for after I saw him fumble with the sheets and play with flowers, and smile upon his fingers' ends, I knew there was but one way; for his nose was as sharp as a pen and a' babbled of gree

The last clause is one of the most celebrated emendations in all Shakespears. It was made by Theobald, a not eminent editor, who changed the "Table of greene fields" of the first follo into "a' babble1 of green fields;" a change accepted almost universally in English now though other emendations have been proposed Such emendations are thus recorded in the latest Cambridge edition: "Upon a table of green fells;" "on a table of green frieze;" "as stubble on shorn fields;" "on a table of greasy fell;" and "the bill of a green finch." Theobald is the " hero" of Pope's "Dunclad;" but the malicious poet has been unable to injure his reputation among Shakespearcan scholars Even with Theobald's emendation accepted. what did Dame Quickly mean? No one knew. But now, in the Critic, comes Mr. Locke Richard son, like Wilson Barrett, not known as a critica student of Shakespeare, though known as a re efter of the plays. He studies Falstaff care fully; he remembers that the fat knight had been brought up religiously, that he had been s choir boy (had lost his voice singing psalms). and he notes that all through even his most reckless speeches, the old man quotes from the Rible. And then, as he read Dame Quickly's pathetic description of Sir John's death, there flashed into his memory the twenty-third psalm; and it came to him: "That in the phrase, 'and a' babbled of green fields,' lurked the very fulfilment of my conviction, that the dear old sinner, who never 'had strength to re pent,' was now, in his mortal extremity, mustering his waning powers in an effort 'to die a fai death' by repeating, in broken and haif andible

accents, verses learned in childhood: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow or death, I will fear no evil

"Here at last we discover the true explanation of Mistress Quickiy's words. In her 'green fields' we recognize the 'green pastures' of David, and with the recognition comes a strain f pathos in Faistaff's dying hour which no hand but Shakespeare's could have infused." Mr. Horace Howard Furness, editor of the Variorum edition, and Mrs. W. J. Rolfe of Cam-

bridge have approved Mr. Richardson's "dis covery," which stands by itself without their aid. May we not all join them in accepting i and congratulate Mr. Richardson on making it? It clears up a Shakespearean mystery, and add deserved interest to the end of that "dear old sinner," that most lovable and pitiable of Shakespeare's characters, Sir John Faistaff. STATEN ISLAND, Dec. 10.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir : HAVE WE in these United States, gone mad, or have we been mad ever since the Declaration of Inde

Loes Mr. Cleveland alone understand "what is Truth," or are the people right and he wrong? What is the reason that after the perpetration of such a message a commission is not ap-

poluted to inquire into his sanity? Can a business man, following Cleveland's saintly lead, borrow all the money possible on his credit, view it complacently as a surplus, and have his career end in any other way than disnater?

Have we learned everything from our fathers wrong end foremost, or is it possible that we have placed at the head of this proud nation a being of weak intellect as well as morals? Thank God! After the 4th of March we need

ot be ashamed that we are Americans G. H. W. NEW YORK, Dec. 10.

A NEW SNAG FOR HIGH BUILDINGS. The Elevator Becomes Troublesome the Increase of Height.

From the Engineering Record Pending the result of a movement to restrict th height of our tall buildings, there is one feature of the problem that has recently been called forcibly to the attention of the public by the accident to the elevators in the American Tract Society building, the details of which were described in the Engineer ing Record of Nov. 21, and that is the peril attend ing the occupancy of such structures where high-speed elevators and high-pressure plants are introduced. It is guite practicable to regulate this matter in anticipation of action on the larger question

of the restriction of the height of buildings. The risks attending the operation of elevators designed to our at speeds of from 500 to 700 feet per minute are much greater than is generally supposed, yet they are fully appreciated by experi-The demand for excessive speeds like that required of the builders of the elevators of the Tract Society building was assumed to be necessary in order to make available for renting the ten upper stories of this twenty-three-story building. To reach quicky these higher stories an excessive speed is called for, and with a view to economize the cost of operpressure plants are designed, with the result that the record for safety of elevator travel so credita-ble to our elevator builders in the past is likely to be impaired. To obviate this, it should be made itlegal to operate passenger elevators at a greater than 400 feet a minute. This will permit the safety device to operate when the speed reaches 500 to 600 feet per minute.

Canadian Hostility to America

To the Editor of The Sux-Sir: 1 am glad to see in THE SUN that the American people have finally waked up to the necessity of fortifying their coasts. As an American who has lived for the past ten years among foreigners I have been amused at the satisfied and self-sufficient state of mind of my countrymen regarding the need of protecting their coasts. How they smiled if one suggested that some Eu-ropean potentate might provoke a war as much as to say that they would spare the listener the harrow-

ing details of the misery that would happen to Mr. Potentate who was rash enough to try conclusions with "Uncle Saun." If they only knew, however, how weakly their power of delenie is considered by all the powers has greedly and covetously some of those for the powers have more than once some of those first easier rich coast line, they might not neel quite so compiscent.

Tate this country, for instance. The inhabitants are more bitter against the States than is dreamed of by outsiders. They can never forgive the States their rapid growth and p osperity walls their own bit of frozen zone is a most at a standatil. They never tire of sneering at the Yankess and are never so happy as when they can be be provided the statement of the property of the provided the pro ing details of the misery that would happen to Mr.

You can see the republic way for more runs and more keep hammering away for more runs and more armor for your New York, Boston, Haltimore, and Fhiladelphia Francus chasa, and don't let up until hier are prepare to stand ally stack from any allikely to be fully within the next fifty years.

ROYMERS, Dec. 10.

NOTES OF LEGAL EVENTS.

We understand that a considerable number of appeals will soon be transferred from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the First Department, sitting in this city, to the Appellate Division of the Second Department in Brooklyn. The authority for such transfer is found in section 2 of Article VI, of the new Constitution in these words: "Whenever the Appellate Division in any department shall be unable to dispose of its business within a reasonsble time, a majority of the presiding Justices of the several departments, at a meeting called by the presiding Justice of the department in arrears, may transfer any pending appeals from such department to any other department for hearing and determination." Brooklyn is so near that the inconvenience to counsel will be Inconsiderable, though New York lawyers might complete of the fourney if their cases were sent to the Appellate Division at Albany or Rochester. The hours of the court in Brooklyn are from 10 p'clock in the morning until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, while the Appellate Division here sits from 1 to 5 P. M.

Under the new Constitution the Justices of

the Appellate Division in each judicial depart-

ment are empowered to assign the Judges to

hold the various Special Terms and Trial Terms of the Supreme Court: or, if they prefer, they may make rules whereby such assignments can be arranged by the trial Judges themselves. Up to the present time, however, the Appellate Justices have exercised the power, instead of framing rules by which others should exercise it. In the assignments for 1897 the Appellate Division of this department has pursued the practice which it originally adopted of assigning particular Judges to particular kinds of work. Thus, the Special Term for the hearing of motions will be held only by Supreme Court Justices who were elected as such, and by Justices Pryor, Beach, and Beekman, who were elected Judges of the Court of Common Pleas or Superior Court and transferred to the Enpreme Court by the operation of the new Constitution. Judge Charles F. MacLean has no Special Term assignments for 1897. In the Second Department all the trial Judges are treated alike, without preference or distinction. In the rural counties, as heretofore, the Special Term business is assigned to the resident Judge. if there be one. Judge Garretson will hold the Special Terms in Queens county and Judge Hirschberg in Orange. Judge Dickey, having given up his residence in Orange county and moved to Brooklyn, where he receives a higher compensation, is treated as a Brooklyn Judge is the assignments.

By certain provisions in the Legislative, Ex ecutive, and Judicial Appropriation bill, which took effect on July 1, 1896, Congress abolished the fee system for United States District Attorpeys and United States Marshals and provided that they should hereafter receive salaries instead of fees. Attorney-General Harmon in his annual report estimates that this change will result in a saving of expense to the Government amounting to nearly \$600,000 in the first We record these figures with peculiar satisfaction, as this journal strongly advocated the change.

There was a proceeding before Mr. Justice Lawrence at Special Term early in the week. under the section of the new insanity law of this State which was enacted by the last Legislature, relating to the issuance of the writ of habeas corpus for the purpose of inquiringin to a case of alleged insanity. This section con tains the somewhat remarkable provision that the medical history of the patient, as it appears on the case book of the institution in which he has been confined, shall be given in evidence at the hearing upon which the fact of insanity is to be inquired into and determined. If this means that the entries in such books are to be treated as competent proof of the mental condition of the patient, without any verification or attestation of their correctness under oath it means that the Legislature has sanctioned a most objectionable and dangerous method o procedure in a judicial inquiry affecting the liberty of the citizen. There are other feature in this new statute relating to the commitment of the insane which are viewed with disag provat by physicians and lawyers alike.

The acquittal of Maria Barberi terminates one of the most remarkable homicide cases ever tried in this city. The fact that her first trial before Recorder Goff was so unfair in a legal sense aroused a degree of sympathy in her behalf that would not otherwise have been man! fested. If the result of the second trial, on the other hand, is justified by the evidence, there is reason to think that the proper place for the given by the Philharmonic Oratorlo-Symphony poor woman is an asylum in which she can re- and other societies. Monday and Tuesday of ceive treatment which will avert the possibility every week sees an assemblage of fashionable of any further outbreak of epileptic insanity and musical celebrities at the Waldorf, whose with homicidal effects. Judge Gildersleeve presided over the trial with firmness and discretion, leaving nothing to be desired except perhaps some restriction in the lengthy examination of expert witnesses. We doubt whether the comprehension of any case can be facilitated by such extremely long and complicated hypothetical questions as are often permitted upon trinis involving the issue of insanity.

The past week has witnessed the death and burial of John R. Fellows, who for more than twenty years had been the most prominent figure at the bar of the criminal courts in this city. His ability and eloquence have been the subject of much just comment, but nothing has been said about one quality which he possessed in an eminent degree as a public speaker. This was the power of interesting his hearers. Whatever the subject or whatever the occasion, John R. Fellows, when he spoke at all, always said something interesting. One of the most impressive addresses that he ever delivered was at the meeting of the bar in honor of the memory of Benjamin K. Pheips, one of his predecessors in the office of District Attorney.

The New York State Reporter, now in its seventy-fourth volume, was the first publication that furnished the bar with the decisions of all our Appellate tribunals at an early date after such decisions were rendered. The system upon which the series was originally conducted was so good that it provoked imitation and competition until it was practically adopted by the publishers of the official reports of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court; so that the plan of what is now known as the Official Series of Law Reports is substantially the same as the method of pamphlet publication first made popular in the legal profession by the New York State Reporter. This flattering imitation, however, must be disastrous to the original enterprise, as an official re-port will always be preferred to one which is non-official where they are otherwise of equal merit. We notice that the State Reporter is not keeping up its former reputation for promptitude. Thus, in the first pamphlet number for November, is a Special Term decision in the East Hiver Bridge case of Gordon vs. Strong, which was decided in March last and was reversed by the Appellate Division before the summer vacation. The expediency of reporting Special Term decisions at all has sometimes been doubted; but certainly, if they are to be reported, it should be before they are reversed.

The Court of Appeals has announced that it about one hundred cases remain undisposed of on the present calendar. The organization of the Appellate Divisions, with their increased jurisdiction, is not yet old enough to show what effect the recent changes in the ludicial system of the State will ultimately have on the volume of business in the Court of Appeals. On the new calcular there will be many cases from the old General Terms. A considerable time must clapse before the only cases for review will be those which come up from the new Appellate Dielsions. These tribunals have thus far shown great capacity for work, especially the court in this city. We are informed that by the end of the present year the Appellate Division of the First | impartment will have decided nearly housand cases, if matters of all sorts are med. This is a good dear to accomplish in ar, even with two additional Judges.

Wide World" and "Pillow-Dex. "the Wide World" is the finest game of travel ever unblashed Handsome, instructive, absorbing: "The Vide World." "Fillow-Des." and "Waterloo" are the bree most popular games of the year! - 400

WHAT IS SOING ON IN SOCIETY

The first Assembly, which was held on Thursday evening last in the new ballroom of the Waldorf Hotel, was as beautiful a ball as New York has ever seen, and must have severald taxed the energies of the ladies who superintended every detail and left nothing undone for the comfort and enjoyment of the gnests and for the spectacular effect to outsiders. The crowd was not great, and there was abundans room for every woman wearing a striking gows to be seen from head to foot. The large mirrors which lined one end of the room were exceedingly ornamental, as they reflected the whole assemblage and doubled its actual size. The effect of the cotillon thus reproduced, with all its intricate figures and continuous twistings and turnings, was outle bewildering.

It was, of course, the débutantes' ball. Nearly all who have appeared at teas or recentions during the last fortnight were present, and were easily distinguishable from the belles of even one season by their freshness, their animation, and the spirit of unmistakable enjoyment that beamed from their eyes. There is no enjoyment in this world like that of a girl of 18 at her fires ball. Nearly all these young girls were white, not the light, fluffy tulles and chiffons of years ago, but rich white satins, with here and there a diamond or pearl ornament to set them off. Miss Madeline Cutting's heavy satin was relieved by spangled tulle and bunches of white sweet peas, which looped and touched it up here and there. It was very becoming to the wearer, who looked quite lovely. Miss Hollins, Miss Rogers, and Miss Floyd were also in white, and so were Miss Evelyn Sloane and Miss Dorothy Schleffelin. Rose color was adopted by many of the other debutantes, and among the few who were pale blue were Miss Evelyn Burden and Mrs. Henry Sloane, who led the cotillon with Mr. Whitehouse in a blue satin gown embroidered in silver, and whose hair and neck sparkled with precious stones.

Nothing seems to be expected of the Reception Committee on these occasions but to cover themselves with pearls and diamonds, stand in a row to bow and smile to the guesta as they enter, and at the appointed time to gracefully lead the procession to the supper room. . All these conditions were scrupulously observed by the ladies receiving at the Assembly. Mrs. Astor never glittered more splendidly. Mrs. Cruger, who is rarely loaded with jewels, word handsomest pearls, and looked extremely well. Mrs. Gerry's ornaments were superb and most admirably disposed, and Mrs. Henry A. C. Taylor looked young and pretty in spite of her married son and grown daughter.

The next subscription ball will be the first Patriarcha', which will take place on the 21st at the Waldorf. Miss Maria de Barril, acting as secretary for the corps of Patriarchs, will attend to all the detail of invitations and arrangements, and is already hard at work in her office at the Lenox. Her tact and executive ability will insure order and regularity in every particular, and prevent the blunders that have occurred now and then in the last few years. The list of candidates for cards is generally much longer for the Patriarchs' than for the Assemblies, and the strangers, foreigners, and

diplomats are more numerous. The Metropolitan Opera House on Friday evening was almost as crowded and brilliant as it was on the first night of the season. The opera was "Carmen," with both Calve and Eames cast for the principal rôles, It was Mme. Calve's first appearance this year, and her welome was a warm one. She has changed but little since last season, but is somewhat toned down in face and figure, and her Cormen had lost its tendency to exaggeration. Mme. Eames. of course, was an exquisite Michaela, and sang the famous aria with her customary sweetness and finish. There was a touch of sentiment in the meeting of the two great prime donne on the same stage and in the same opera, which was apparently genuine, if slightly dramatic,

and interested the audience immensely. The house was one of the best and largest that has been seen this year. Helles, beaux, matrons, and chaperons sparkled and glittered. Mrs. Roche and Mrs. Porter ornamented Mrs. Townsend Burden's box, and made it one of, if not quite, the most attractive in the house, Mrs. Henry Sloane, in a superb white brocade with narrow bands of sable, looked quite radiant, and showed no symptom of fatigue from her efforts of the night before. The dancing set, however, were rather in the minority, and were represented by Miss Blight, Miss Gerry.

Miss Van Alen, the Misses Morton, and others. Music lovers are certainly destined to have their tastes gratified this winter. In addition to the opera and the long list of classical concerts ce shows very plainly that the fondne for stringed instruments and classical music is Notwithstanding the prediction that the Tuesday afternoon concerts would kill Mr. Bagby's Musical Mondays, exactly the reverse has happened. Mr. Bagby's programme last Monday morning was a long one and was listened to with interest and attention. The women's string orchestra made almost its first appearance, and won continued applause. At the close of the concert people formed themselves into parties for luncheon, and the whole affair was as much enjoyed as it was at any time last winter. For his next musicale Mr. lagby has placed a part of the tickets at the disposal of the A. B. Circle of the Neighborhood lub to be sold for the benefit of the club. The star of the next Tuesday concert will be Mme.

caivé, who will draw a crowd, of course. The home-coming of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin for a two months' visit this winter has been so often announced and so often contradicted that no one has had any belief in it whatever. But a walk through West Twentieth street, from Fifth to Sixth avenue, shows their ammoth residence, consisting of four large houses thrown into one, in evident preparation for their arrival. It is now expected that they will sail on Wednesday next, and their presence will mean a great deal to the gay set. Mrs. Sherman, the mother of Mrs. Martin, will be with them, but the coming of Lord and Lady

Craven is uncertain. Americans who have been much abroad will remember Mr. Lars Anderson, who was Secretary of Legation in London and has since been transferred to Rome. His engagement to Miss Isabel Perkins of Boston, whose grandfather, the late William F. Weld, left her the tidy fortune of \$17,000,000, has made a stir in that city, where the young lady has hardly yet entered society and where many of the jounesse dorse of the Hub have been waiting to see and adore her. Mr. Anderson, who is a son of the late Gen. Anderson son of Washington, had doubtless many friends in London, where he spent several years,

Two weddings have yet to be despatched before Christmas, that of Miss Fannie Tailer and Mr. Sidney Smith, on Thursday next, and Miss Alice Lee Post to Mr. Beadleston on the CCd.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier, who spent a winter here four years ago, and was made much of by many well-known people, although he did not appear professionally, has come again, time with a wife and a new play adapted from the French of "Divorgons," in which he made hit at the Empire. Mr. and Mrs. Bourchie have already been entertained several times at suppore and dinners, among others by Sir Roderick Cameron, Mr. Cecil Baring, and Gen. Lloyd Stryce, who also entertained on Sunday night last Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mansfield. W.

Bourke Cockran, G. W. Smalley, Perry Belmont, Mrs. Roche, Miss Johnson, and Miss Duer. Washington society is gratified to know that t is not after all to be defrauded of the great Bonaparte wedding, which it has been decided . to take place on Tuesday, Dec. 29. There all be no reception, but a breakfast to intimate friends at Mrs. Honaparte's house.

London journals are filled with descriptions of he great doings at Blenhelm during the royal visit. Interest seems to centre mainly, however, the young Duchess and her marvellous costumes, in which she contrived to blend the tmost degree of smartness with a touch of sourning for her grandmother, Mrs. Vanderilt. One of her tengowns is described as an exquisite combination of white actin and chinhills with ornaments of diamonds and jet, and on the night of the concert she wore white velvet, with a diamond beit holding in a fall o black chiffon, and a diamond tiars in her hale,